

Resource Concerns

1. Sheet and Rill/Gully Erosion

Sheet and Rill/Gully Erosion needs to be addressed to help stop potential land degradation and to assist with water quality protection.

Sheet and Rill Erosion: The unwanted removal of layers of soil from the land surface by the action of rainfall and runoff. It is the first stage of water erosion. Funds will be requested based on the total number of acres treated in the field.

Gully Erosion: The process whereby the unwanted removal of soil is characterized by large incised channels in the landscape; severe erosion in which trenches are cut into the soil. These practices are measured by the number of actively eroding gully sites. Funds are requested based on the number of gullies treated.

2. Grazing Management

Grazing management is used in pastureland where non-woody, permanent vegetative cover is established. The practices are designed to promote economically and environmentally sound agricultural land management on pastureland by demonstrating the best use of soil and water resources through the use of rotational grazing, the reduction or prevention of soil erosion, and water quality protection. Funds are requested based on the number of acres in the fields that will be improved with the grazing practice.

3. Irrigation Management

Irrigation is the artificial application of water to land to assist in the production of crops. Irrigation management needs to be addressed to help protect water quality through efficient and uniformly applied water to control runoff, appropriate application of nutrients and chemicals, and conservation of water supplies. Funds are requested based on the number of acres in the field that will be addressed.

4. Animal Waste Management

Animal waste management practices are designed to reduce or prevent degradation of the soil and water resources from animal waste runoff formed during intensive agricultural production. Such systems are planned to preclude discharge of pollutants to surface or groundwater and to recycle waste through correct soil application on agricultural land. Funds are requested based on the number of systems that need to be installed.

5. Nutrient and Pest Management

Nutrient and pest management preserve and protect water quality by demonstrating the environmental and economic advantages of following a nutrient management or pest management plan. The practices provide cooperators an incentive to encourage the adoption of new management techniques and/or technologies for applying commercial fertilizer, pesticide or herbicide on agricultural land.

When nutrients or chemicals in the soil (or applied to an area) are managed for their best and appropriate use, less nutrient and chemical runoff and leeching of the soil into streams occurs after a rainfall event. Funds are requested based on the number of acres that need a management plan applied.

6. Sensitive Areas

Sensitive areas are areas of agricultural land where current management has impacted erosion, surface water, and/or ground water, and improved land use practices can increase environmental quality. Practices in sensitive areas assist in the protection of water quality through buffers that collect and filter out sediment and other nutrients, herbicides, and pesticides that could run off of crop fields. The exclusion of livestock from streams protects the streambank from soil degradation and keeps animal waste out of streams, which prevents high nutrient and E. coli content. Funds are requested based on the number of acres that will be addressed within the field.

7. Woodland Erosion

Woodland erosion is the process that occurs when the removal of soil or vegetation (including trees), through animal presence or tree harvesting, allows soil to become susceptible to Sheet and Rill/Gully Erosion. Woodland erosion is addressed by excluding livestock from woodland areas, and by developing a plan for harvesting trees in an appropriate manner to protect soil integrity and water quality. Funds are requested to treat the number of woodland acres that need protection.